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TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9948
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RUCPDOG/USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY
RUEATRS/DEPT OF TREASURY WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY
RUYNAAAC/COMNAVFORJAPAN YOKOSUKA JA PRIORITY
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI PRIORITY
RHHMHBA/COMPACFLT PEARL HARBOR HI//N541// PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI//CC/PA// PRIORITY
RUHBANB/OKINAWA FLD OFC US FORCES JAPAN CP BUTLER JA PRIORITY
RHMFIUU/USFJ PRIORITY
INFO RUEHFK/AMCONSUL FUKUOKA 4699
RUEHNH/AMCONSUL NAHA 7102
RUEHNAG/AMCONSUL NAGOYA 3470
RUEHKSO/AMCONSUL SAPPORO 5361
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STATE FOR I/RF, PA/PR/FPC/W, IIP/G/EA, EAP/PD, R/MR,
EAP/J, EAP/P, PM;
USTR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE;
TREASURY FOR OASIA/IMI;
SECDEF FOR OASD/PA;
CP BUTLER OKINAWA FOR AREA FIELD OFFICE;
PACOM HONOLULU FOR PUBLIC DIPLOMACY ADVISOR

E.O. 12958: N/A

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SUBJECT: TOKYO MEDIA REACTION - RUSSIAN PARLIAMENTARY
ELECTIONS

LEAD STORIES: Monday morning's Asahi led with the reported questioning by Tokyo prosecutors of several senior Defense Ministry officials familiar with U.S. force realignment programs in Okinawa concerning their knowledge of individual initiatives and influence peddling, if any, by arrested former Vice Defense Minister Moriya.

11. "Doubts Raised About Election Fairness" The liberal Tokyo Shimbun's Moscow correspondent wrote (12/3): "Parliamentary elections were held across Russia on Sunday. Given that President Putin's ruling party "United Russia" appears to be heading toward a lopsided victory, momentum is bound to build for creating a system that would allow Putin to maintain his power base even after he is required to step down from the presidency next May. However, as European countries canceled plans to send election observers and as allegations emerged during the campaign about the improper use of government agencies by the ruling party, there will likely be concerns raised in the international community about the fairness of the Russian elections."

SCHIEFFER